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Serving New Jersey's African-American communities since 1983

Cochran speaks out on racism

By Lucy Sanchez
Staff writer

TRENTON — Johnnie Cochran attacks racism in America. Social crusader for change, infamous trial attorney and host of weekly talk show "Cochran and Company," Johnnie Cochran made a special appearance on New Jersey Networks Public Television program "Due Process," with host Raymond Brown on January 6, 1999.

Acclaimed defense attorney discusses his rise to fame with high-profile clients such as O.J. Simpson, Michael Jackson, and Reginald Denny. During his thirty years of practice, Cochran has become an advocate for justice in the American police force and judicial system. In an interview with City News, Cochran stated the best way to deal with the issue of racism and police brutality is to first admit that it really does exist.

"I don't want to paint all the New Jersey troopers or the department with one brush," said Cochran. "I wouldn't do that. I just look at the cases that I know about and those cases are real disturbing."

Cochran is presently defending a group of four students who were traveling to a college basketball game in North Carolina. The police fired up to twelve shots into the van while attempting to pull them over. All of the young men are hospitalized with severe injuries.

"This case cries out for justice," said Cochran. "They are victims. They're like you and your family and your brothers. They were trying to go to school. They were trying to better themselves in this country and now their lives have been changed forever."

Police brutality and excessive use of force are major issues in the African-American community. While some question the urgency of this issue, a polarized relationship is developing between the men in blue and the people who they have vowed to protect. A healing process must take place to reconcile the differences. Police should not be stopped for doing wrong or unjust acts and not because of their skin color or ethnicity. Cochran stated the most viable solution is for police to be held accountable for their actions.

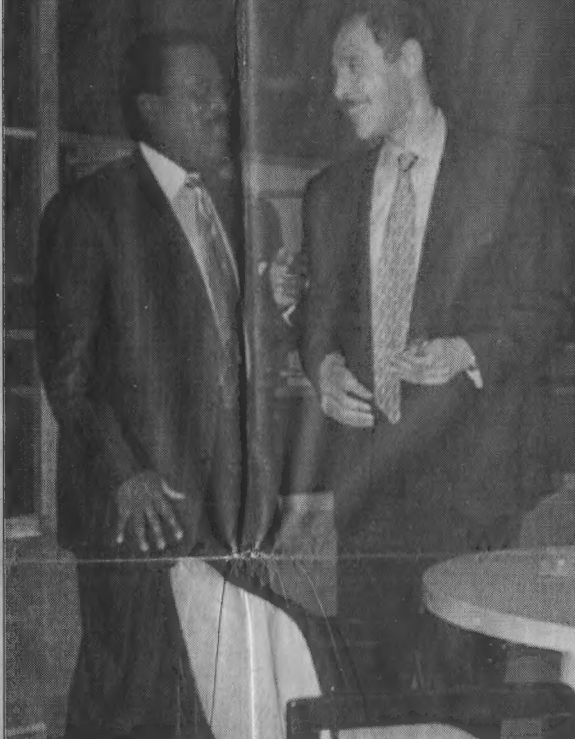
"You have to take a look at the statistics of who is stopped," said Cochran. "African-Americans are only 12 percent of the population. Look at the numbers of how many are stopped, approximately 70 percent. What does that tell you? We're the only ones that are driving fast on the turnpike. I don't think so."

Solutions for this injustice lies in accountability and a little bit of soul searching states Cochran. The newly installed cameras in police cars will help police make righteous arrests and righteous stops. "You have a case of the good cops fearing the bad cops," stated Cochran. "The individual officers who are out there have to look within themselves to say I'm not going to be a part of this. When they step up to say they're not going to be a part of it, they're making a difference. It's not easy to wipe away a whole segment of society and say they're just complaining...If you're African-American or Hispanic-American and you're stopped and kept on the turnpike for long periods of time then that's a reality for you."

Cochran stressed the reality of being criticized and attacked when you speak on volatile issues in America such as racism and police brutality; however, those are the only ways changes occur. Dismissing the problem does not make it go away. Ignorance keeps one away from knowledge.

"A society where more attention is paid to incarceration than education is in trouble," said Cochran. "We need to get back to education. Knowledge is power. For us to come to understand each other in a diverse society we have to understand more about each other. It's not enough to just look at somebody and just judge them by their color and skin in America. We all need to try to understand each other backgrounds more."

Education coupled with courage were the imperative reasons suggested by Cochran to help correct the race problem in America. "If you have a safe job and say 'well better not rock the boat,' and never make any changes," said Cochran, "then you don't make the great nation that we should be. Imagine if Rosa Parks had decided on that bus back there in Montgomery that she would just sit in the back of the bus. If she hadn't had that courage or if Dr. King hadn't said



Johnnie Cochran during the taping of "Due Process," with host Raymond Brown.

the constitution promises certain things about equal treatment for all citizens. We told ourselves when say 'oh everything is wonderful.' Somebody has to speak up because you can't leave anybody behind in this society. If you care about this society you can't leave anyone behind."

The fame attorney definitely stood up to the plate when asked about everything ranging from his optimism with the release of political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal to dealing with the impeachment of President Clinton. His outspoken characteristic and personal endeavors for equality has led him to prestigious milestones such as the 1995 "L.A. Lawyer of the Year" by The National Journal, the "Trumpet Award" from the

Turner Broadcasting System, Inc. in 1996, a member of the International Academy of Trial Lawyers and The American College of Trial Lawyers, the founding chairperson of the Domestic Violence Council of Los Angeles county and the founder of the Law Firm, "Cochran, Atkins & Evans" in Washington, DC.

"Due Process," the weekly legal affairs series that explores contemporary legal issues concerning New Jersey will launch off its fourth season on NJN with Cochran. Part one will air on Wednesday, January 13, at 6:30 p.m. and part two will air on the following Wednesday, January 20, at 6:30 p.m.

White House wants to force an early impeachment

By John Solomon
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House is developing a trial strategy to force an early vote to show that the Senate cannot muster the two-thirds majority required to convict President Clinton, presidential advisers said.

The advisers said the goal is to give Clinton's defenders a potent political weapon in case Republicans press ahead with a plan to present witnesses and evidence at a lengthy trial that the public has indicated it does not want.

"Once we show the two-thirds is not there, the message is it's just a show trial with no chance of conviction. And every day we can remind the public of that," said one White House official, who spoke only on condition of anonymity.

Much depends on the format the Republican Senate majority chooses for the first trial of president in 130 years and what rules are put in place. Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott called Wednesday night for a "full trial" with details still to come.

Clinton faces two articles of impeachment accusing him of perjury before a grand jury and obstruction of justice in his efforts to conceal an affair with former White House intern Monica Lewinsky.

Presidential advisers said a "test vote" could be forced in several ways. The Senate could adopt rules used in past impeachment trials, a motion for such a sentiment could be approved by a simple majority—51 votes.

One White House official said presidential

lawyers have discussed presenting, at the start of the trial, a comprehensive, single motion to dismiss the case against Clinton on a variety of grounds — that the case doesn't meet the constitutional test of "high crimes and misdemeanors"; that the evidence doesn't support the charges; and possibly that the articles were improperly approved by a lame-duck House.

If that motion isn't made or kept from a vote, an outside adviser to the White House said, a Democratic senator could make a motion to table or adjourn the trial before evidence is presented. This adviser, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the test vote has become a key part of an evolving White House strategy. Losing the vote isn't a concern as long as 34 or more senators — enough to block conviction — support the motion, the adviser said.

"We see such a vote as a de facto end to any going forward; it's unfair to predict how senators will vote until we've heard all the evidence."

"It's one thing to read a cold record, an uncorroborated record, and another thing to listen to the witness, to hear them cross-examined, to find out the holes in their stories," Sen. Rick Santorum, R-Pa., said.

Presidential aides, however, are banking that public approval of Clinton's job performance and public opposition to a trial will move to Clinton's favor once a test vote on the Senate floor shows



President William Jefferson Clinton

there aren't enough votes to convict.

The unfolding events suggest a trial, whatever the format, will hinge less on legal maneuvering than political gamesmanship.

Publicly, the White House is being careful to avoid any suggestion it is trying to pressure the Senate. "The president is asking for a process that is fair, bipartisan and expeditious. We'll prefer to let the Senate do its business and let the Senate know on an informal basis," press secretary

Joe Lockhart said Wednesday.

In private, White House lawyers are developing a lengthy and aggressive legal defense if the case goes to trial.

The test vote emerged from a plan that was developed by Sen. Joseph Lieberman, D-Conn., and Slade Gorton, R-Wash., and floated by Lott a week ago. When conservatives objected to the test vote and possible move to censure, Lott capitulated.

White South African Council blocks promised land to blacks

By Pat Reber

BROEDERSTROOM, South Africa (AP) — The ancestors of 98-year-old Obad Moja lived in these green hills long before the white Pretorius family arrived and made the Mojas landless sharecroppers in the late 1800s.

Now a white political activist who is fasting to make his point was to give the land back to the Mojas and other black families.

But Roger Roman, 45, who bought the historic farm in 1995, is being blocked by a nearly all-white town council with a firm majority of former apartheid supporters.

The council has developed up sanitation, zoning and building codes to condemn dwellings that have housed black laborers for more than 100 years. Harborsport district Mayor Peter Rautenbach says he agrees in principle with giving land to "those poor people," but that neighbors have complained Roman was not keeping up to health standards.

The obstacles illustrate how far South Africa has to travel in resolving one of the most pressing legacies of 300 years of white oppression: 27 percent of all black families continue to live as sharecroppers, tenants or squatters on land they neither rent nor own, according to the 1996 census.

"The apartheid system is continuing and continuing under these guys," said Phillip Rafedelle, 48, a high school teacher whose forebears farmed the Pretorius land under near-feudal conditions.

After apartheid ended with the first democratic elections in 1994, President Nelson Mandela assured landless blacks that their problems would be solved.

Nearly 40,000 individual and community land claims have been filed with the government under a deadline that expires today. About 27 claims benefiting nearly 14,000 households have been settled so far.

For the Mojas, Roman and others who live on the 32-acre farm along with eight other families, there also are guarantees under the 1997 Land Tenure act that forbids landowners from evicting laborers.

But many rural blacks are unaware of their residency rights. Some landowners hurried to kick blacks off their land before the law went into effect, contributing to the creation of squatter camps.

At one such camp set up by the local council, about 50 families live in shacks next to a sewage plant where human excrement is dried and stored for use as fertilizer on farmland.

Children muddy from head to toe wander among the crowded houses, in rain, then cold wind blows in winter and dust storms in the summer. The floors are packed dirt.

"We aren't free at all. We can't even speak and let you use our names," one resident at the camp said on condition of anonymity.

At Roman's farm, about six miles from the camp, the well-built stone houses have cement floors and graceful courtyards adorned with yellow flowers. Under old shade trees, relatives from nearby cities visited grandmothers and aunts on Wednesday.

"I love coming home. This is where I was born," said Rafedelle's niece, Mary Rafedelle, 33, who works in an office in a nearby town.

Obad Moja retired to the farm after years of working as a servant in Johannesburg.

Roman says he cannot afford to build new houses for all the families on his land. But if each family receives title to a plot, they can apply for government subsidies.

"My plan makes sense legally, morally and financially," Roman said.

Part of the problem is the lack of precedent in dealing land to laborers. Several farmers have set up businesses to be run by their laborers, but actual land transfers have been rare.

Nearly landless farmers have formed a committee to stop Roman. One, Oer Zillies, charged Roman's plans are politically motivated to drum up African National Congress support in the next elections. Roman says he has no political aspirations.

The town council, meanwhile, claims it has the authority to approve deed transfers and is resisting Roman's plan because of health violations. Roman's plans are politically motivated to drum up African National Congress support in the next elections. Roman says he has no political aspirations.

A national land affairs official, Gigi Balduino, said there was no question that the national law protecting farm residents takes precedence over the council's by-laws.

She said she hoped more rural land owners, who have been targeted in slayings and robberies by landless blacks, would take part in cultivating reconciliation among their laborers.

A business consultant who has advised private industry on equal employment and other issues, Roman has lost 35 pounds since starting to fast Nov. 25. He drinks liquids and eats some fruits.

"I will stop fasting when enough landowners start working at this," he said. "It's not my choice, but I'm willing to die."

Community calendar

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13
NEW BRUNSWICK — Central Jersey Job Developers Association's Annual Job Fair at Rutgers Labor Education Center Ryders Lane, off route 1 from 9a.m. to 1p.m. (973) 732-846-4018
SATURDAY, JANUARY 14
NEWARK — The Newark Public Library Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Annual Lecture presented by Rev. Dr. William D. Wiaty, Senior Pastor of St. James AME Church of Newark at Centennial Hall 6 p.m. (973) 733-7798
NEWARK — The Experts Hard Point Karate World Championships at 7:30 p.m. at Robert Treat Hotel Ticket Price \$15.00 - \$25.00 (973) 623-6418
FRIDAY, JANUARY 15
CLIFFSIDE PARK — Single Faces Inc. will host a singles function at the Palisades beginning at 9 p.m. (201) 224-2022
SATURDAY, JANUARY 16
CLARK — Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders and the Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs will sponsor a GRANT WRITING WORKSHOP: How to plan and construct a winning proposal from 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. at Clark Public Library, 303 Westfield Avenue the cost is \$15.00 (including lunch) each additional person is \$10.00 (908) 558-2550
HEMPSTEAD — Hofstra University College Saturday Classes for Young People Open House. For children ages 3-18 from noon - 3p.m. (516) 463-5993
NEWARK — Second Annual Men of Valor Breakfast and awards celebration at the Robert Treat Hotel, 50 Park Place for more information call (732) 424-9697
NEWARK — Essex County College will offer registration for non-matriculating students beginning at 9 a.m. (973) 877-3054
NEWARK — The New Jersey Historical Society presents an art activity expo for families beginning at 1 p.m. (973) 598-8500
SUNDAY, JANUARY 17
EDISON — Single Faces Inc. presents a singles function at Pines Manor beginning at 8 p.m. (732) 287-2222
MORRISTOWN — The College of

Elizabeth resident receives scholarship from Union County



ELIZABETH — Curtie Lee (right) was recently named the recipient of the Lincoln Technical Institute/ Linda Stender Scholarship. Lee received the scholarship from Union County Freeholder Nicholas Scutari (left), a resident of Elizabeth, is an automotive technician student at Lincoln Tech's campus in Union. "With this scholarship, I feel I can really get the education I've always wanted and get a job I will enjoy," Lee said.

Social worker praised for her services



PLAINFIELD — Freeholder Vice Chairman Nicholas Scutari (left) together with Union County Manager Michael J. Lapolla (right) congratulate Shirley Wilson (center) from the Union County Division of Social Services in Plainfield as December's employee of the month. Wilson was presented with a resolution for her outstanding job performance. This is the first award for Wilson's stellar career.

Educators come together for conference on juvenile crime



JERSEY CITY — The Peter Rodino Jr. Institute of Criminal Justice and the Department of Criminal Justice/Fire Safety of New Jersey City University sponsored a recent conference on juvenile violence that covered issues surrounding the rise in the rate of juvenile violence throughout the United States and the nature and extent of crimes in New Jersey. Paul Donnelly (right), executive director of the Juvenile Justice Commission in Trenton, discussed his keynote address with (from left): Dr. Sandra Robinson, NJCJ dean of professional studies; Dr. Shirley Williams, chair of the NJCJ Department of Criminal Justice; and Barbara Turso-Dembrowski, assistant prosecutor for Hudson County.

Giblin Association annual charity breakfast salutes community leaders



NEWARK — The Giblin Association, a civic group organized in 1864 and dedicated to the improvement of the city, held its annual charity breakfast at Mayfair Farms in West Orange. Wilbur J. McNell of Newark (center) was saluted for his outstanding contributions to civic projects and recreation and is also the founder and president of the Woeuque Park Association. Thomas Giblin (left), standard-bearer of the Giblin Association, awards the honoree with the achievement award for his long community service. Joining them is Essex County Freeholder Joe Perlevecchio, who introduced him at the breakfast. Along with honoring McNell, the company saluted five other outstanding citizens and organizations who have offered significant contributions in the community including Newark Emergency Services for Families, who received a check for \$500 from Giblin and the company.

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Gen. Powell asks minority engineers to mentor youth

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13

NEW BRUNSWICK — Central Jersey Job Developers Association will hold its 15th Annual Job Fair at the Central Jersey Job Developers at the Rutgers Labor Education Center on the campus of Rutgers University beginning at 9 a.m. (908) 986-2966.

NEW BRUNSWICK — The New Jersey Association of Women Business Owners Inc. will hold a breakfast network beginning at 8 a.m. (908) 986-2966.

LIVINGSTON — The Livingston Chamber of Commerce will hold a discussion on property taxes at their headquarters beginning at 6:30 p.m. (908) 982-4343.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 15

TRENTON — The New Jersey Chamber of Commerce will hold a roundtable discussion breakfast seminar at the Fortgate Country Club beginning at 8:30 a.m. (609) 989-7888.

JAMESBURG — The New Jersey State Chamber of Commerce will hold a roundtable discussion breakfast seminar at the Fortgate Country Club beginning at 8:30 a.m. (609) 989-7888.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 16

CLARK — The Union County Department of Economic Development will hold a workshop on how to start a business at the Clark Public Library beginning at 9 a.m. (908) 558-2550.

NEWARK — The University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey will hold a seminar on hospital finance at the hospital conference room beginning at 11 a.m. (973) 373-7464.

UNION — The Union Chamber of Commerce presents a seminar on how to start a business at the Union County Office beginning at 9 a.m. (908) 735-0001.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 19

NEWARK — The U.S. Small Business Administration sponsors a workshop on starting and managing your own business conducted by the Service Corps of Retired Executives 9 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. at Bell Atlantic headquarters on Broad Street. \$15 fee. (973) 645-2434.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20

CAMDEN — The U.S. Small Business Administration sponsors a workshop on drafting your business plan. 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Camden County College. (609) 358-1817 ext. 3162.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 21

EDISON — Somerset County Chamber of Commerce will hold a Small Business Council Breakfast, three professionals will discuss the latest developments in the Year 2000 battle breakfast at 8:00 a.m. sharp and networking at 9:00 a.m. (908) 725-1552.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 22

CAMDEN — The Gloucester County Library System and the Camden Chamber of Commerce presents the 2nd seminar at the library beginning at 9 a.m. (973) 645-2434.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 23

NEW BRUNSWICK — The New Jersey Association of Women Business Owners Inc. will hold a business after hours seminar at the Office Depot beginning at 5:15 p.m. (908) 979-7143.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 26

JAMESBURG — The New Jersey Chamber of Commerce presents a seminar on Y2K in business at the Jamesburg Chamber of Commerce beginning at 9 a.m. (609) 989-7888.

MONTCLAIR — The Montclair Chamber of Commerce presents a business discussion on marketing with small business at their location beginning at 7 p.m. (973) 744-7660.

CRANFORD — Robert L. Tammaro & Co. will hold a seminar on small business and big business. Call (609) 655-8700 for time and information.

NEW YORK — New York University presents a seminar on the music business. Call (212) 998-7080 for time and information.

NEW YORK — The American Management Association will hold a workshop on employees and employers at their headquarters. Call 1-800-346-7350 for time and information.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 28

NEWARK — The Regional Business Partnership and the Commerce & Industry Association of NJ will hold a business dinner at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAAC) Theater Square Grill beginning at 7 p.m. (973) 942-6257.

ORANGE — The Omni Corporation will hold a business seminar on the life insurance at their offices beginning at 6 p.m. (973) 674-9050.

MONTCLAIR — The Montclair Chamber of Commerce will hold a discussion on home mortgages in Montclair beginning at 5 p.m. (973) 744-7660.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 29

PRINCETON — The New Jersey Technical Council presents the New Jersey Capital Conference '99 at the NJHA Conference Center beginning at 9 a.m. (609) 432-1507.

NEW YORK — At the recent National Council for Minorities in Engineering Annual Forum, Gen. Colin L. Powell, who is chair of America's President, shared the podium with Rep. Robert C. Scott (D-Va.) and Transportation Secretary Rodney E. Slater. The trio urged 400 corporate, government and education leaders in the audience to join forces and build a diverse, world-class 21st century work force.

Gen. Powell stressed corporate and government leaders to partner with NACME and other organizations promoting excellence in education.

The speaking of the kinds that America's minorities is to increase the representation of minorities in engineering, the general focused on mentoring and ensuring that American students are prepared for the technological work force.

He talked of the importance of parents and mentors in passing on "a sense of purpose, of vision and of discipline" to children. Powell told attendees, "I know that mentoring works. I see it first hand. I see what happens when children have that kind of presence in their lives; when there is someone passing on the expectations of the past, the traditions of the past, the experiences of the past. How else will a child learn? How else will a child find a role model in life?"

Mentoring is an important compo-

nent of NACME's programs. The organization links practicing engineering professionals with undergraduate students in its scholarship programs, and NACME alumni serve as mentors and role models to school children in underserved communities across the nation.

In 1996, NACME received the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring. In October, the not-for-profit organization was honored with the EPIC Award for Exemplary Public Interest Contribution by the U.S. Department of Labor.

Picking up on the theme of NACME's meeting, General Powell stated, "The essence of NACME, for the past 25 years of distinguished history, is to take our children and give them the marketable skills that they are going to need in order to be successful in the 21st Century workplace."

Secretary Slater—who was also the keynote speaker at NACME's Summit on the 21st Century Work Force held at the National Academy of Engineering last summer—gave participants via video, and spoke of his plans to "join strength" by forming a closer relationship with NACME.

Slater also congratulated three long-time NACME supporters, Exxon, GE, and IBM, recipients of the first NACME Leadership Circle Awards, for "embrac-

ing diversity and for providing the vision, the personal participation, the human resources, and the financial support not only to NACME, but to local programs across the nation."

Powell praised NACME for its work in technical education and challenged attendees to increase efforts to address the needs of America's young people, saying, NACME passes on the sense of discipline, of structure, and of believing in oneself that our young people need."

Ten students from across the nation won awards ranging from \$2,500 to \$10,000 for engineering degrees at institutions such as Spelman, Georgia Institute of Technology, and Harvard.

Citing the economic and social consequences brought on by the digital divide and the failure of some schools to effectively educate, Rep. Scott had high praise for the Teddies Scholars. Concluding that, he also challenged them, saying that "our national economy rests on the quality of scientists and engineers like you."

NACME provides diversity and mentor training on campuses and for corporations, develops and operates academic enrichment programs and is the nation's leading source of data and analysis on trends in enrollment, graduation and retention in engineering education by ethnicity and gender.

U.S. Chamber To President & Congress: Make Y2k solution your New Year's resolution

WASHINGTON — Responding to declarations by the Clinton Administration that federal agencies are making progress in dealing with potential Y2K computer glitches, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce today called on the President, Congress and the legal profession to work constructively with business to meet the Y2K computer challenge.

"We were all pleased to learn from the President this week that various federal agencies are clearing up their Y2K vulnerabilities," said Lawrence Kraus, President of the Chamber affiliate, the Institute for Legal Reform. "But meeting this challenge won't be complete until the President and Congress pass constructive legislation that assists small business with compliance and prevents excessive litigation over Y2K."

The President and Congress pass constructive legislation that assists small business with compliance and prevents excessive litigation over Y2K.

"The bill passed by Congress in 1998, the Year 2000 Readiness Disclosure Act, which allowed companies to share information was only a first step. Now we need strong legislation that encourages problem-solving and we urge the legal profession to join in this effort," said Kraus.

Kraus added that the Chamber is currently crafting legislation that would assist business in becoming Y2K compliant and protect consumers from frivolous lawsuits. Congress will be asked to consider this measure when it convenes in January.

"While no one knows for sure, the Y2K computer problem has the potential to disrupt the entire global economy and affect the financial health of businesses large and small," Kraus said. "Under no circumstances

should this problem be exploited to the detriment of America's high tech companies, consumers or businesses that rely on computer systems."

Addressing the Y2K problem will be a top priority for business and the U.S. Chamber in 1999. "We urge the President, Congress and the legal profession to place finding a constructive solution high on their list of New Year's resolutions," Kraus added.

The mission of the U.S. Chamber Institute for Legal Reform which was established in April 1998, is to reduce excessive and frivolous lawsuits while restoring fairness and balance to America's legal system. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce is the world's largest business federation representing more than three million businesses and organizations of every size, sector and region.

Minority contractors name Congressman Stokes Man of the Year

WASHINGTON — Congressman Louis Stokes, (D-OH) was recently named the National Association of Minority Contractors (NAMC) Man of the Year for 1998. The award was bestowed upon Congressman Stokes at the NAMC's 31st Annual Dinner & Golf Tournament Program held in October, at the Capital Hilton Hotel in Washington D.C.

NAMC, a non-profit trade association, established in 1969 to address the needs and concerns of minority contractors nationwide, recognized Congressman Stokes for his 30 years of illustrious service in the United States Congress.

In his position on the powerful House Appropriations Committee, Congressman Stokes consistently ensured

available funding for the training of hundreds of minority contractors around the country in the area of environmental services contracting.

While serving as the Chairman of the Appropriations Sub-Committee on VA, HUD, & the independent agencies, Congressman Stokes added important amendments to major legislation assuring minority participation for a number of federal programs.

In 1989, he wrote an 8% Minority Participation Goal in dollar billion dollar Super Conductor Super Collider Project. He also introduced legislation creating an across the board minority business goal for The Environmental Protection Agency's programs.

Since 1996, he has continued to fight for equity and parity for minorities.

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Advice to end the millennium

Dale G. Caldwell

As you begin 1999 you should spend considerable time thinking about where you want to be financially when the 20th Century ends. I recommend that your financial goals for 1999 include maximizing your net worth. As I have described in previous articles, your net worth can be calculated by subtracting your total liabilities from your total assets. Net worth is the best gauge of wealth. You should set a specific net worth goal for the end of the year. For example, you may want to increase your current net worth by 20%.

If this is your goal and your current net worth is \$100,000. Then you hope to have a net worth of \$120,000 by Dec. 31, 1999. It does not matter whether your goal is more or less aggressive than a 20% increase. The important thing is that you focus this year on increasing your net worth.

Why is net worth important?

Net worth is an effective measure of your financial position. Many people focus on income as the measure of financial success. However, income by itself is not a good gauge of financial health because it does not take into account expenses. No matter what your income is, if you spend more than you make you will be in financial trouble.

Unfortunately, many African Americans do not understand the importance of maximizing net worth. Instead, we focus on conspicuous consumption. We frequently place more emphasis on having the nicest car or wearing the most expensive clothes than having the highest net worth. This focus often puts us one paycheck away from bankruptcy.

Focusing on maximizing our net worth will enable us to develop a financial cushion that will support us in difficult times, help us achieve our financial goals and pass on wealth to future generations. One of the long term impacts of slavery is that African Americans had no wealth to pass on to future generations. We feel the effects of this even today.

One way to defeat the legacy of slavery is to behold to develop wealth in the African American community as we enter the 21st Century.

How do you increase your net worth?

Before you can increase your net worth you should know what your net worth is. I am amazed how many very intelligent people have no idea what their net worth is. To determine your net worth you should determine the value of all of your assets (home savings, investments, jewelry, clothes, car, etc.) Once you have determined the value of your assets you should total your liabilities (mortgage or other loans, credit card bills, other debts, etc.) The difference between your assets and liabilities is your net worth. Do not be depressed if your net worth is negative this is the case for many people. The best way to increase your net worth is to increase the value of four assets while decreasing your liabilities.

The most effective way to reduce your liabilities is to pay off your debts early. Many people will pay a little more each month to reduce the principal of their mortgage loan and increase their net worth. If at all possible pay off your credit cards and any other high interest debts that you have. Every dollar reduction in your liabilities increases your net worth by a dollar.

You can also increase your net worth by increasing your assets. If you invest extra money each month you can potentially increase your net worth by more than a dollar for every dollar you invest (depending on how well your investment does). Another way to increase your assets is to spend less money on conspicuous consumption and more on investing. Ask yourself if you really need to buy that new car or clothes. Instead of having these things invest that money to increase your net worth.

I encourage you to end the millennium on a strong financial footing. Set specific measurable goals to increase your net worth. As you begin the 21st Century you will thank me for recommending that you focus on increasing your net worth.

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Health Calendar

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13

EDISON — The JFK Medical Center will offer a support group for those suffering from hepatitis at the Office Complex beginning at 7:30 p.m. (732) 937-2737

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14

MONTCLAIR — The Blood Center of New Jersey will hold a blood drive at the Montclair Chapter of the American Red Cross beginning at 2:30 p.m. 1-800-BLOOD-NJ.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 16

NEW BRUNSWICK — Robert Wood Johnson Medical Center will hold a tour of the hospital's maternity beginning at 8 p.m. (732) 937-8820.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 17

WARREN — The Greater Plainfield Area Chapter of the ARC and New Jersey Blood Drive will hold a blood drive at Our Lady of the Mount 167 Mt. Bethel Rd. - Warren Heights at 10 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (908) 756-6414.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 19

NEW BRUNSWICK — Robert Wood Johnson Medical Center will hold a support group for couples who have lost a child. Call (732) 937-8820 for time.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20

NEW BRUNSWICK — The New Jersey State Bar Foundation, The New Jersey State Bar Association, Elder Law Section and the ARC of New Jersey will cosponsor a free public seminar highlighting developmental disabilities and will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. at the New Jersey Law Center, One Constitution Square, (732) 937-7518

FRIDAY, JANUARY 22

TEANECK — Holy Name Hospital in conjunction with the Teaneck Department of Health and Human Services will offer a free Blood Pressure Screening from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. (201) 837-1850.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 23

NEW BRUNSWICK — Robert Wood Johnson Medical Center will hold a sibling preparation class for children ages three to seven at the hospital auditorium beginning at 11 a.m. (732) 937-8820.

MONDAY, JANUARY 25

CRANFORD — The Mental Health Association in New Jersey will offer free training to deal with the conflicts of mental health at the Cranford United Methodist Church beginning at 7 p.m. (973) 744-2500.

BELLEVILLE — The Women's Health Center at Clara Maass, in cooperation with Berlex Laboratories, hosts a free monthly support group for women experiencing menopause. The Menopause Awareness and Support Group meets on Wednesday evenings from 7 to 8 p.m. in the Women's Health Center at Clara Maass, located on the lobby level of the Clara Maass Continuing Care Center at Belleville.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27

TEANECK — Holy Name Hospital will offer a support group for those suffering from substance disorders at the health service building beginning at 7 p.m. (201) 833-7212.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 28

GREENBROOK — The American Red Cross will hold a blood drive at the Greenbrook Manor Nursing home beginning at 4 p.m. (908) 756-6414.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 29

NEW BRUNSWICK — Robert Wood Johnson Medical Center will hold a support group meeting for those who suffered from a stroke at the hospital's auditorium 1:30 p.m. (732) 937-8820.

Children's hospital celebrate Red Ribbon week

NEWARK — "Winning the Fight Against Drugs and Lifelong Effects of Substance Abuse" were among the featured topics of two drug-free workshops sponsored by the Community Development Department at Children's Hospital of New Jersey at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center during Red Ribbon Week, last year.

More than 470 Newark students in grades 5 through 12, and members of local youth organizations attended the workshops which featured speakers Kendall Spont, M.D., director of general pediatrics and community medicine at Children's Hospital and Reverend DeForest B. Soaries, Jr., Pastor of the First Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens.

"The purpose of the Red Ribbon Week observance is to provide a unified and visible commitment toward the creation of a drug-free America," adds Rhonda Smith-McCahem, director of community development at Children's Hospital.

To commemorate the special occasion Newark Mayor Sharpe James issued a proclamation declaring Red Ribbon Week, the state's premier hospital caring for children. With specialized services that include a licensed pediatric cardiac surgery program, the Valerie Fund Children's Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders, a state designated regional perinatal center, a pediatric emergency department and pedi-



Angela Diaz, M.D., Dir. of Mount Sinai's Adolescent Health Center, surrounded by peer educators at the 30th anniversary celebration acknowledges the staff and teens in making the program a success.

at an affiliate of the Saint Barnabas Health Care System, is the state's premier hospital caring for children. With specialized services that include a licensed pediatric cardiac surgery program, the Valerie Fund Children's Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders, a state designated regional perinatal center, a pediatric emergency department and pedi-

New Year's Resolution: Read this survey before joining any weight-loss center

WASHINGTON — After holiday season splurging, many Americans aim to lose weight. Unfortunately, most major commercial weight loss centers use out-of-date methods that may do more harm than good, says a new survey by the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine (PCRM).

The group rated ten popular weight-loss centers, some of which advocate a healthier message than others. Weight-loss centers encouraging plant-based meals and overall lifestyle changes achieved a higher rating. Programs called "outstanding" offered low-fat, vegetarian, cholesterol-free meals with instructional courses led by dietitians or doctors on healthy cooking, nutrition, and stress manage-

married four years and had 1.2 children.

With blood pressure cuffs attached, each couple then was told to argue opposing positions on how to carry out medical teaching staff out at a hypothetical local school. Disagreement was created by giving each spouse a different list of positions to stake out and defend. When blood pressure responses were correlated with the self-ratings the couples had provided, researchers found that:

Arguing with a spouse perceived as relatively dominant was linked with larger increases in blood pressure than arguing with a spouse considered relatively submissive; but

Arguing with a spouse perceived as clearly dominant, where chances of success are considered impossible or not worth the effort, resulted in minimal increases in blood pressure.

Despite their findings, Smith and colleagues say "any suggestion that the psychophysiological correlates of the expression of dominance in marriage might have significance for cardiovascular health must be tentative."

Spouses' relative dominance impacts blood pressure

STONY BROOK, NY — How a husband and wife view their roles in the marriage—dominant or submissive—has a lot to do with how their blood pressure changes when they express opinions and try to influence each other.

According to new research, increases in blood pressure during an argument are larger when one spouse perceives the other as relatively dominant, but smaller if that spouse considers the other as clearly dominant and the argument impossible to win or at least not worth the effort.

Writing in the current issue of *Annals of Behavioral Medicine* (Vol. 20, No. 4) being published this week, Timothy W. Smith, Ph.D., Peter C. Brown, Ph.D., and Lorna S. Benjamin, Ph.D., of the University of Utah, say the expression of dominance in a marriage may have important consequences not only for blood pressure but ultimately as a risk factor for cardiovascular disease.

The researchers asked 45 young couples to rate how they perceived their typical level of dominance or submission in their marriage.

On average, the couples had been

Accidentally finding his Own problem, pediatrician has heart valve repair

NEWARK — He considers the child to be his "guardian angel" — and wishes he could remember which child. That's what shock can do.

It started innocuously just before Thanksgiving. A boy that Dr. Anthony Riccardi was examining asked to try the stethoscope. To demonstrate how to listen to one's heart, the pediatrician placed the stethoscope into his own ears and over his own heart. There was an abnormal swishing sound. He was stunned. He'd had no symptoms — and earlier that day the 48-year-old physician had run the four-to-five-mile he does four days a week to prepare for the New York City Marathon.

"My cardiologists quickly tested me at Saint Michael's Heart Institute," says Riccardi, who has offices in East Orange and Bloomfield. "They found a severely leaking mitral valve, which controls blood to the left ventricle, the heart's main pumping chamber. They said not to worry, as a premier Saint Michael's cardiac surgeon, Dr. Alain Asher, specializes in mitral valves."

Five days later, Asher, in a four-and-a-half hour operation, repaired the diseased valve. Three days after that, Dr. Riccardi went home to recuperate.

"Though I'm an almost lifelong resident of Newark who was born at Saint Michael's, did my medical residency and was chief pediatric resident there in 1979/80, and have admitting privileges, I never had been a Saint Michael's patient," Riccardi adds.

"I can't praise the experience enough. Dr. Asher is a fantastic surgeon. He did the more difficult and lengthy procedure of reconstructing rather than replacing my valve — which means better long-term results. As for the Heart Institute and Saint Michael's, the care is incredible. I was treated superbly by everyone. If any of my family or

friends get sick, I'll go unequivocally to that, there's no place to go but Saint Michael's."

How serious was Dr. Riccardi's problem?

"We could have waited a few weeks," says Dr. Asher, Surgical Director of the Saint Michael's Heart Institute who has one of the state's highest patient survival rates. "Intensive training may have contributed to the deterioration, since it greatly stresses the valve. Leaky valves must be repaired or replaced before they damage the heart — which can occur prior to symptoms."

As for choosing the much more complex, time-consuming reconstruction over replacement, Dr. Asher cites two reasons. Most important, the heart functions better with reconstruction. In replacement, the mitral valve's central support mechanism cannot be preserved. This weakens the ventricle's inner structure.

Second, substitute valves either come from a pig or are made of metal. While metal valves do not deteriorate, they require constant blood anti-coagulants, which can have serious side-effects. Pig valves to not have this problem, but must be replaced in eight-to-ten years.

Most cardiac surgeons opt for replacement, Dr. Asher adds, because repairs are more tedious, and the results are predictably good only with much experience. Virtually all purely leaking mitral valves are repairable, he says, and an effort always should be made to reconstruct them.

Finally, what's the prognosis for Dr. Riccardi's running?

"He'll be able to start running again in about eight weeks, and slowly build up to his old routine," Dr. Asher assures. "He's quite an indomitable fellow."

Add Riccardi: "Dr. Asher is a beautiful person who gave me the best Thanksgiving and Christmas present possible."

American Lung Association announces 'Ride Across America'

UNION — Calling all New Jersey cycling enthusiasts to the ride of a lifetime!

If riding your bicycle across America sounds like an exciting adventure — one that test the spirit and endurance of every cyclist — the American Lung Association of New Jersey invites you to join its second annual "Big Ride Across America" to help raise funds to combat asthma, emphysema and lung cancer.

New Jersey's contingent will be part of a nationwide group of cyclists — more than 500 in all — who will put their "mettle to the pedals" June 14 to July 31, in a fully supported 47-day journey from Seattle, WA to Washington, D.C.

Interested New Jersey cyclists may call 1-877-BIG-RIDE for registration and information. Each rider will be required to raise a minimum of \$7,000 in pledge donations for the ALANA. The Lung Association will assist the riders in registering sponsors and provide promotion materials to help each candidate reach their goal.

The ride is one of the largest cycling events ever conducted in the United States, cover more than 3,000 miles over the majestic mountains of the Northwest, across the plains of America's Heartland, into the secondary highways and byways of the Midwest and Northeast leading to our nation's Capital.

Support services include daily route directions and maps, personal gear transportation, hot meals and showers, mobile bicycle shop, medical and technical services and laundry facilities.

The "Big Ride" is not a race. Cyclists will travel the route at their own pace. There will be time allotted each day for refreshment periods and sight-seeing.

If you think you are ready to discover a "new" frontier within yourself and help children and adults with lung disease to breathe easier, take a moment today and dial 1-877-BIG RIDE. It could be the beginning of the ride of your life.



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THURSDAY, JANUARY 14

NEW YORK — A major exhibition of work by colonial and folk artist Ray Johnson (1927-88), organized by the Waxen Center for the Arts, will premiere at the Whitney Museum of Art Center for the Arts (215) 570-3833.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 15

SCOTCH PLAINS — The Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs presents original works of artists Eugenia Gallery. Call (908) 322-6533 for time and location.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 16

WESTFIELD — The Choral Art Society of New Jersey, Inc. will present a Bach and Handel Concert at 8 p.m. at the Presbyterian Church in Westfield on Mountain Ave. at Broad St. (908) 740-4171.

NEWARK — The New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) the presents composer Foday Musa Suso beginning at 7:30 p.m. 1-888-GO-NJAPAC.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 17

NEWARK — Newark Museum will host a Black History Month concert featuring the One World Jazz Ensemble beginning 2:30 p.m. (973) 996-6550.

PUBLIC, JANUARY 20

PLAINFIELD — Poetry at Plainfield Public Library, 888 Street at Park Ave., 6:45 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. for information call (908) 757-1111.

Peters Publishes Book On Zora Neale Hurston

LAWRENCEVILLE, NJ — Dr. Pearlite Peters of Lawrenceville, associate professor of English, has had a book published by Garland Publishing Company on Zora Neale Hurston, folklorist and novelist.

The book is entitled *The Assertive Woman in Zora Neale Hurston's Fiction, Folklore, and Drama*. This book explores Hurston's development as a writer, her assertive woman and outspoken writer, emphasizing the impact of the African-American oral traditions and vernacular speech Dr. Pearlite Peters patterns of Harlem, Polk County, and her hometown of Jacksonville, FL, on the development of her personality in artistic voice.

Dr. Peters' study traces the development of Hurston's assertive woman, her performance and verbal empowerment, the significance of "down home" southern humor, and the importance of an ideology of assertive individualism in Hurston's writings. The book also analyzes changes in Hurston's personal style.

A member of Rider's English faculty since 1990, Dr. Peters' scholarly research has focused on African-American literature, and multi-ethnic American literature.

This fall she participated in the Southern Writers Symposium at Methodist College in Fayetteville, NC and spoke to Eastover as home and literary landscape in Hurston's fiction and folklore. In addition, she will serve as a session leader on the unpublished plays of Hurston at the Modern Language Association of American Convention in San Francisco in December. Dr. Judith Johnston, professor of English at Rider, will also speak on Hurston at that session.

Over the years Dr. Peters has conducted extensive research on Hurston. Under a Rider faculty development grant she studied at the Library of Congress, focusing on Hurston's manuscripts and recently discovered papers. Dr. Peters has also published numerous papers on the life and works of Hurston in such publications as *The Oxford Companion to African American Literature*, *The African American Encyclopedia*, and *The Black Book*. She is on research leave for the 1999-2000 academic year to research Donnelly West as a short story writer.

She earned her Ph.D. at the University of Buffalo and was the recipient of two postdoctoral fellowships — one from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the other from the Ford Foundation. She also received a certificate of appreciation from Rider's Student Support Services program for being a member of its quality enhancement council. This year she was appointed as a faculty member to Rider's Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) Community Advisory Board.

Newark Museum celebrates achievements of Black Americans

NEWARK — The Newark Museum has celebrated the achievements of Black Americans since its early days. In 1931, it was one of the first museums to mount an exhibition devoted solely to the work of African American artists. In the years since, shows have highlighted both established and emerging Black artists, and the Museum has added many works by prominent collectors.

Eighteen years ago, the Museum launched an annual series of events in February hailed by The New York Times as the major observance of Black History Month in New Jersey. Throughout 1999, its 50th anniversary year, the Museum will commemorate its distinguished history of presenting the world's art and cultural heritage, beginning with a special salute to the contributions of African Americans in the visual and performing arts.

Black History Month goes beyond the traditional February observance this year, commencing in January with a full range of programs, including dance, theater and musical performances, exhibitions and tours, workshops and films focusing on the history, triumph over adversity and achievements of African Americans.

Kicking off the two months of events, Sunday, January 10 offered a special day of programming, *I'll Make Me a World: A Century of African-American Artists*, that highlight, a new six-part PBS series to be aired in February. The documentary, produced by the Henry Hampton (Eyes On The Prize) of Blackside, Inc. and Thirteen/WNET, celebrates the extraordinary achievements of 20th century African American writers, musicians, performers and visual artists who forever changed us as a nation and a culture.

Pan African Film & Art Festival returns with 'Infinite Imagination'!!!

LOS ANGELES — For six consecutive years, The Pan African Film & Art Festival (PAFF) has graced Los Angeles with one of the nation's largest Black History Month events. 1999 will prove no different with multi-talented actor/producer/director/performer, Malcolm Jamal Warner serving as celebrity host for the 7th annual affair. To be held once again at the Magic Johnson Theaters and the Baldwin Hills Crenshaw Plaza, Thursday, February 4 through Monday, February 15, 1999, this year's theme is "Infinite Imagination."

Explains executive director, Ayako Babu, "With over 50 years of the finest features, shorts and documentaries being presented from around the globe, and the exhibition and sale of the works of some one hundred prominent and emerging Black artists and crafts people, the entire scope of our festival manifests one infinite imagination!"

Malcolm Jamal Warner serves as a most prestigious celebrity host for the event. An 80's icon for *21 Jump Street*, *The Hustler* for *The Cosby Show*, he is now seen weekly on the UPN, co-starring *Malcolm & Eddie*. A versatile and gifted entertainer, Warner's multi-media talents include acting, directing and producing as well as authorship and musical performance. A mainstay in the eye of the media, Warner's positive personality and accomplishments continue to position him at the forefront of African American culture.

In addition to film, fine art and unique crafts, the PAFF will offer a delectable serving of music, fashion and poetry performance at Seminars on topics ranging from art to filmmaking, guided youth tours, and hands-on

workshops round out the festivities. Angela Bassett, director Julie Dash, Issiah Washington and producer Reuben Cannon are just a sampling of the members on the host committee. With some 100,000 participants attending last year, including celebrities like Sidney Poitier, Tim Reid and Blair Underwood, the Pan African Film Festival is the definitive celebration of the Black experience in America and around the world.

In recognition of the filmmakers' commitment to art and culture, this year the PAFF will award five newly established film honors.

The Pan African Film Festival is sponsored by AT&T, The City of Los Angeles Cultural Affairs Department, Baldwin Hills Crenshaw Plaza, L.A. Africa, American Airlines, Sony Pictures Entertainment, Magic Johnson Theaters, Pacific Bell, The Documentary Company, Xerox, Continental Plaza Hotel, ARTS, Inc. and the L.A. Times.

S screenings are \$7.50 for adults (\$4.75 after 6:00 p.m.) and \$4.75 for children and teens. The Opening Night Gala is \$45.00 general admission which includes a screening, reception and entertainment. For reservations, call 1-800-LAX-HOTEL. For discounted airfares on American Airlines call 1-800-433-1790, use Star File # 11567. Fund raisers and group sales available. For more information call (213) 866-8221 or (323) 295-1706. Hit the web site at www.paaff.org.

The categories are Best Narrative Feature, Best Documentary, Best Short, Best Student Film and Audience Award (narrative or documentary).

The Pan African Film Festival is the largest festival in the United States devoted to the exhibition of Black film. Over 350 PAFF's commence-

Ascendia Hunter

CN: I know that your brother Claude was in the group Take 6, have you had the opportunity to sing with your brothers recently?

Brian: Not recently, because I've been so busy touring, but when we were little, we were in a barbershop quartet. It was fun when you sign out of all of the singing.

CN: Tell me a little bit about Brian McKnight during the pre-fame celebrity college years. What were you like?

Brian: I've always been a hard worker when I wanted to be - that is during my first year of college, I was the best student. I didn't ever have a girlfriend. All I tried to do was my homework and animal socializing and I stayed out of trouble.

CN: I've always been a hard worker when I wanted to be - that is during my first year of college, I was the best student. I didn't ever have a girlfriend. All I tried to do was my homework and animal socializing and I stayed out of trouble.

CN: And now what is the relationship like?

Brian: She's my closest friend and we have two children together. She understands the business and knows that I can be messy, but she always understands and I respect her for that. Christmas albums are a joy all the way around. They get to show your diversity and you get to have fun being in a good relationship could be. I met my wife, Julie, in September and we've been together since then.

CN: And now what is the relationship like?

Brian: True. I'm planning to do five originals by myself and I'm trying to schedule a duet with Harry Connick Jr. It's a Frank Sinatra, Nat King Cole kind of a thing going on. David Sanborn, Michael Sembello and Jamie Foxx have also committed to the project. It's going to be a really good album and I'm excited. That's what's so good about my job, it keeps me completely motivated.



The movie *Family Man* will be shown during the celebration.



Jazz composer Yusef Ali.



Members of the Blue Heron Theatre to perform at the Newark Museum.

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DO SOMETHING See John Amos in Halley's Comet at NJPAC to benefit Do Something

On Wednesday, February 24, 1999 at 7 p.m., John Amos will be performing his acclaimed one-man show *Halley's Comet* at NJPAC's Victoria Theater. All proceeds directly support the programs of Newark Do Something. Tickets are only \$35 and go on sale at the NJPAC box office on December 29.

Newark Do Something's goal is to help make Newark a highly livable city by helping to develop leaders. To that end, we inspire, train, mobilize, and fund young people and others to measurably strengthen Newark.

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(This program is supported by a grant from The Union County Board of Chosen Freedmen, coordinated by the Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs.)

Muslim girls relocated from Christian foster home

LIVONIA, MI (AP) — After more than three months in a Christian foster home, three Muslim Iraqi sisters now are in the care of a Detroit-area Muslim leader.

Arab American religious and community leaders had criticized the girls' treatment by their original foster parents, alleging that they gave them Christian crosses to wear and took away their traditional hijabs, or headscarves.

The girls, ages 12, 14, and 16, were removed from their parents' home in August after state child welfare officials accused their parents of physically abusing them.

The girls now live with Imam Mohammad Ali Elahi, leader of the Islamic House of Wisdom in Dearborn Heights, and his wife and three children.

"We give them all the flexibility and freedom they want both inside and outside our home," Elahi told The Detroit News. "We take care of them better than our own children — honestly — because we want them to realize they are in a safe and warm atmosphere. We want to make them happy and give them a sense of belonging."

ATTENTION !!

Churches & Mosques

Please send your religious editorials and calendar events to: City News/Attn: Religion Dept. P.O. Box 1774 Plainfield, NJ 07061

Generation X turning away from denomination

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Some Sunday, 17-year-old Ryan Campbell leaves her own Baptist missionary church in Pittsburgh's Homewood section and worships at the non-denominational Covenant Church, where a youth outreach program features Christian rap played against the backdrop of a graffiti-filled funk brick wall.

"We're not into the organs and (hymns) that they have all the time in some churches," said Campbell, 17, who to the 100 or so other teenagers who worship at Covenant during the Hearts Affire program on Wednesday nights.

Sociologists believe Campbell is part of a trend: young black people turning away from mainline Christian denominations in favor of less traditional congregations.

Anecdotes, not statistics, tell the

story best: Youths in search of spirituality have grown up outside of the civil rights struggle, and they expect religion to help them transcend problems, not just suffer through them, said Kenia Weems, a former stock broker who was chosen by Ebony magazine as one of Ebony's top female pastors.

Though Baptist and Methodist churches continue to dominate black religious life, Weems, who teaches at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tenn., said she has noticed many young people seeking God through other congregations.

"Gen Xers want heartfelt, even ecstatic religious experiences. And they're not bound by denominations to get it," Weems told the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.

A study of more than 30,000 black Americans cited by the Post-Gazette

shows that from 1973 to 1980, fewer than 1 percent considered themselves nondenominational. By 1996, that percentage had doubled in a survey of 55,000 black people, the study said.

Also, a jump in the number of blacks joining conservative denominations — Apostolic, Holiness and Church of God in Christ affiliations — coincided with modest declines among Baptists and Methodists.

Chanel Conley, 24, grew up in a Baptist family in Philadelphia but attended Catholic schools. Now living in Pittsburgh, she wound up at the city's Macedonia Baptist Church, where she was baptized two years ago.

"My focus was not on the denomination," she said. "I saw this as a way to get a closer bond with the people I had come to love."

She said churches need to pay

more attention to young adults who, like Conley, are busy with work and college and expect their congregations to respond to their needs.

"We need more options in church for socialization, study, and networking," she said.

Weems recently was a lecturer at a Vanderbilt seminar on the future of the black church.

"The younger folk are more interested in teaching than in preaching," she said. "They are seeking empowerment."

At Covenant Church, 21-year-old intern Thomas Armstrong, who works with teens, said he believes young people are drawn to nondenominational congregations because they are tired of being labeled.

"It doesn't matter to us what you call yourself," he said. "Christ did for all."

Second annual Men of Valor breakfast and awards celebration

NEWARK—Project Re-Direct/Youth & Family Services will honor 12 men from the Metro Newark area to central NJ. These men were selected from the corporate, non-profits, business, education and religious community. What they have in common is their demonstrated commitment to working within their respective communities to combat child abuse, drug usage, family violence, intergenerational incarceration. And to promote healthy lifestyles for children and their families. They will be presented with the "Man of Valor" Award on Saturday morning from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. January 16, 1999 at the Robert Treat Hotel, 50 Park Place, downtown Newark, NJ.

Project Re-Direct/Youth & Family Services is a non-profit community based organization that is committed to child abuse prevention, juvenile delinquency prevention, and the restoration of the family. Working with children and families of the incarcerated and developing delinquency prevention initiatives for young urban males are major aspects of this organization. The partnership of Project Re-Direct with dedicated men who represent all socio-economic communities within the state of New Jersey will help save

our youths and their families, who are in desperate need," stated Sharon Berry, founder/President.

All proceeds from the "Men of Valor" breakfast will support the Saturday Programs — Education for the year 2000 and S.I.M.E.A. II (Single Intelligent Males with Bold Ability) projects at the West Side Park Community Building, Newark, NJ. As well as continuing and expanding on-site programs at various schools within the Metro-Newark area.

According to Ms. Berry, "The men honored share this organization's vision and enhances our mission statement of protecting children, and restoring the family. Young males need to see men of all cultures and ethnic groups working together, being appreciated and honored. These are the best examples possible of the benefits of education, hard work and good citizenship."

Everyone is invited to attend and support the initiative of Project Re-Direct/Youth & Family Services. For more information and ticket costs, call 1-888-868-9697.

Nominations for the "MEN OF VALOR AWARD" are the following: Congressman Donald Poyne, Council President Wayne Smith/Livingston, Mr.



Students who received awards for academic and community achievement will be honored at the second annual "Men of Valor" celebration.

Books, Dr. Charles Bowers/St. Barnabas Hospital/Livingston, Mr. Tony Poles/Chief Executive Officer/C.A.C., Mr. Nathaniel Potts/Bd. President DINC/Educational Task Force, Councilor Jack Booker, Newark, Mr. Joe

Chaney/field/NCC, Rev. Edward Smar/Israel Memorial Church/Newark, Mr. Alfred Koppert/S&G Mr. Cisse Malinda/President & CEO/Focus, and Mayor Jim McGreevey/Woodbridge, NJ.

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Student Tickets in Advance - \$3

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For Ticket Information contact M. Haskins at 908-953-5114

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(Price: a pair of short trip plane tickets to any U.S. Destination)

Plainfield Symphony Plans "Free Fundraiser"

PLAINFIELD—The Plainfield Symphony's next concert will be a "Free Fundraiser" to benefit the orchestra. The orchestra will perform at 8 p.m. on Saturday, January 16, 1999 at Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church in Plainfield.

Maestro Sabin Pautz, the orchestra's music director, has organized a program of familiar "hits" from the symphonic repertoire to please both first-timers and concert veterans.

Pianist Christopher Johnson, familiar to Plainfield Symphony audiences from his sensational debut last May, will perform Mozart's Piano Concerto #21 in C Major. Known to both classical music buffs and a broader audience, the concerto's haunting second movement was featured in the hit film "Elvira Madigan."

Schubert's "Unfinished," Symphony #8 in B minor is also well-known and has been a favorite of symphony orchestras for generations. The program also features Mendelssohn's ballet music from "Le Cid," another familiar and well-loved standard from the "pops" repertoire.

The "Free Fundraiser" is an exciting departure from the Plainfield Symphony's regular subscription season. Admission to the con-

cert is free and no tickets are required. Instead, the audience will be given an opportunity to make a voluntary donation to support the Plainfield Symphony's operations.

The Plainfield Symphony, the oldest community orchestra in New Jersey, is made up of professional and talented amateur musicians. It has been bringing outstanding musical music to central New Jersey since 1919.

For the January concert, the Symphony's musicians have donated their talents so that all funds raised may go directly to support the activities of the orchestra.

Even if you have never attended a classical music concert, here is your opportunity to experience outstanding music right in your area.

The "Free Fundraiser" will be performed at Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church, 716 Watchung Avenue (at East 7th Street), Plainfield, New Jersey. Convenient parking is available. A post-concert reception is planned.

More information about the concert and reception may be obtained by calling the Plainfield Symphony office at (908) 561-5140.

The Amen Corner

Some signs of good news

By Joseph E. Lowery

(NNPA) — We live in a world shadowed by grotesque signs of man's inhumanity, of abuse of drugs, violence, racial hatred, greed and disregard for the sacredness of the Lord's Earth. A friend told me he seldom, if ever, watches the late news because he is guaranteed a troubled sleep.

A few days before the first Christmas, messengers from a heavenly orbit told a group of earthly shepherds that good news was just around the corner. They would see a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in a manger and that would be a sign of good news for an oppressed people. The Amen Corner sees some signs of good news.

In the November elections I saw a sign of a fresh breeze blowing by voters. In New Palestine and Rob from office and sent a clear message to the Falwells of religious extremism. Good news! Two African Americans were elected to statewide offices in a deep South state. One is Georgia's new Attorney General. The other is its Labor Commissioner. Thurbert Baker and Michael Thurmond were elected with 20 to 25 percent of the white vote. A good sign. Even if Brother Baker found it necessary to campaign on a law and order platform, it was a good sign that white voters would support a black for the highest law enforcement office in the state a few years ago the governor won office by fighting black demonstrators with ax handles.

In a Midwestern state, a U.S. senator was elected without the frantic fundraising of millions from the usual sources. A good sign. Campaign money was not used to buy the survival of a democratic form of governance. It alone can guarantee the right to compete for elective office with the instruments of death. A good sign. Weapons over the counter, like can openers, must come under the Brady Law, and all gun-buyers receive a background check. There's still work to be done for a waiting period, but the extension of background checks for all guns and gun shows is a good sign. Cities like Chicago and New Orleans are taking legal action against gun makers and merchants who flood their streets with these instruments of death. A good sign.

Hospitals can no longer refuse to treat patients who need emergency care unless approved by an HMO. A good sign. The Supreme Court put an end to the exclusion of African-American physicians and other health care providers from approved lists of HMOs.

Gen. Augusto Pinochet, the former tyrant of Chile, may not avoid prosecution for his crimes against humanity after all. The British law lords have declared that he may be extradited. A good sign.

As of this writing there is growing sentiment, even among some Republicans, that the will of the people ought to be respected and that democracy be exercised against the President to so that the nation may move on to more critical issues. A good sign.

A black priest is among the Roman Catholic hierarchy who may be considered for election to the papacy. A good sign. African Americans, workers, students, and members of the community of faith showed signs of old unity in the last election. A good sign. Could this signal the rebirth of the Coalition of Conscience that precipitated the social revolution of the 60s and 70s?

Finally, ABC's Nightline devoted its entire program on the last evening in November to remembering Major General John Stanford, who died Nov. 28 of complications related to leukemia and cancer treatments. Stanford was formerly county manager of Fulton County, Ga. He left Atlanta in 1995 to serve as superintendent of the 47,000-student Seattle school system. In three years, he led the system to a complete turn-around.

Every report from Seattle proclaimed that the former military career man inspired administrators, teachers, parents, the business community, and children to believe in themselves. Caring is of tremendous value in the education process. Nightline's homage to Gen. Stanford was a good sign.

A sign that the all — powerful media can care. The celestial messengers told the shepherds to look in an unlikely place for a sign of good news. Caring can help us find unexpected good news in unlikely places. "And this shall be a sign unto you." Let the church say "amen!"

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— Paul Robeson

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Classified/Legals

LEGAL NOTICE

Fax legals to:
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NORTH CAROLINA HOMES PROJECT ATLANTIC CITY, NEW JERSEY

The Casino Reinvestment Development Authority (CRDA) is seeking proposals from qualified developers for pre-construction, construction and marketing activities associated with the development of a residential community consisting approximately twenty-four (24) single family and/or twin style units, to be constructed on or near North Carolina Avenue in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

If designated as Qualified Developer, your firm will be selected from the CRDA office beginning Wednesday, January 6, 1999 at 10:00 a.m. at the office of CRDA.

Copies of the Request For Proposals will be available from the CRDA office beginning Wednesday, January 6, 1999. Respondents are required to attend a mandatory pre-submission meeting to be held on Friday, January 8, 1999 at 10:30 A.M. at the office of CRDA.

Proposals must be received by the CRDA by 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 27, 1999. No bid proposals will be accepted.

Questions are to be directed to:

Edward C. Einhaus, Director of Housing Development
Casino Reinvestment Development Authority
1014 Atlantic Avenue
Atlantic City, NJ 08401
(609) 347-5200

PENNSYLVANIA HOMES PROJECT ATLANTIC CITY, NEW JERSEY

The Casino Reinvestment Development Authority (CRDA) is seeking proposals from qualified developers for pre-construction, construction and marketing activities associated with the development of a residential community consisting approximately fifteen (15) single family and/or twin style units, to be constructed on or near North Pennsylvania Avenue in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

If designated as Qualified Developer, your firm will be selected from the CRDA office beginning Wednesday, January 6, 1999. Respondents are required to attend a mandatory pre-submission meeting to be held on Friday, January 8, 1999 at 11:00 a.m. at the office of CRDA.

Copies of the Request For Proposals will be available from the CRDA office beginning Wednesday, January 6, 1999. Respondents are required to attend a mandatory pre-submission meeting to be held on Friday, January 8, 1999 at 11:00 a.m. at the office of CRDA.

Proposals must be received by the CRDA by 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 27, 1999. No bid proposals will be accepted.

Questions are to be directed to:

Edward C. Einhaus, Director of Housing Development
Casino Reinvestment Development Authority
1014 Atlantic Avenue
Atlantic City, NJ 08401
(609) 347-5200

INVITATION TO BID

The Housing Authority of the Township of Woodbridge (Authority) will receive sealed bids to furnish **Five (5) Adult System Monitors, Inspection & Preventive Maintenance** for the Period 3/1/99 to 3/31/2000 at the existing Public Housing Developments listed below:

NJ25-1 10 Burns Lane, Woodbridge - Woodbridge

Garden Apartments

NJ25-2 58 Brook Street, Woodbridge - Stern Teller

NJ25-3 1422 Oak Tree Road, Iselin - Cooper Towers

NJ25-4 555 New Brunswick Avenue, Ford - Olsen Towers

NJ25-4 555 Parkway Avenue, Woodbridge - Adams Towers

NJ25-5 19 Martin Terrace, Woodbridge - Finn Towers

NJ25-7 400 Myran Avenue, Colonia - Greiner Towers

The anticipated cost for said bid is estimated at \$7,500 - \$8,000 lump sum. This project will be for a lump sum contract for the projects identified above. The Bid Opening will be held at 10:00 A.M. (prevaling time) on Wednesday, January 20, 1999 at the Administration Office of the Authority, 10 Burns Lane, Woodbridge, New Jersey.

A pre-bid conference will be held at 10:00 A.M. on Friday, January 8, 1999 at the Administration Office in the Executive Office of the Authority, 10 Burns Lane, Woodbridge, New Jersey. The purpose of this conference is to meet, clarify and inspect all buildings and systems contained in the bid process.

Bidding documents, including specifications, may be obtained at the Administration Office, 10 Burns Lane, Woodbridge, New Jersey 07095. Office hours are weekdays, 8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M., excluding holidays. A non-refundable charge of \$20 (in check or money order form) is required to obtain specifications and bid documents.

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The Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any informality in bidding.

Bids will be awarded only to the corporation or other entity under whose name qualifications, pre-qualifications (where provided for by the Authority and applicable) bonding documentation and other documentation are submitted. Corporate affiliates, subsidiary or parent corporation or related entities are not automatically qualified.

The Authority will only accept original bidding documents only. All bids must be enclosed in a properly sealed envelope bearing on the outside the name of the bidder, the title of the bid contained therein, and the date and time of bid opening. No late bids will be accepted.

No bid shall be withdrawn for a period of sixty (60) days subsequent to the date of the bid without the consent of the Authority. Schedule of Withdrawal and administrative charges are included with the bid documents.

All bidders are required to comply with the requirements of P.L. 1975 c. 127, a law superseding the Law Against Discrimination. For further information contact Peter Anus, Executive Director, at 732-634-2750 or fax 732-634-5421.

REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS

The Township of Montclair is seeking proposals from developers interested in constructing an affordable housing development for senior citizens to be located on a 30,471 square foot Township-owned parcel at the intersection of Glenridge Avenue and Pine Street (present location of police substation trailer). All persons interested in obtaining an information package with further details should submit a request to the Department of Planning & Community Development, 255 Clarendon Avenue, Montclair, NJ 07042 by mail, phone 973-509-4554 or fax 973-555-9368. A copy may also be obtained in person at the above address. Deadline for submission of proposals is February 12, 1999.

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CLERICAL

The United Methodist Homes of New Jersey has an opening for an 30 hr/wk secretary at its newly constructed HUD facility in Plainfield.

The successful candidate will have one year general office experience including word processing. Responsibilities will include assembling forms, typing reports, correspondence and answering phones, etc. Please send resume & salary requirements to: Director of Human Resources, UMHNJ, P.O. Box 0667, Neptune, NJ 07754-0667. EOE

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Earn up to \$500 per week assembling products at home. No experience. Info 1-504-646-1700. DEPT. NJ-2150

Deadline for publication of legals and classifieds is the Thursday before the Wednesday of publication.

HELP WANTED

TOWNSHIP OF CLARK NEW JERSEY

Police Officer - Township of Clark is seeking applicants for the position of Police Officer. Starting salary is \$23,000.00 per year. Applicants must be at least 18 years old as of January 26, 1999, citizens of the United States and residents of Union County. Applicants must also be High School or Vocational High School graduates or possess an approved High School equivalency Certification. Applications may be obtained Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. at the Office of the Business Administrator, 430 Westfield Avenue, Clark, NJ 07066. All completed applications must be filed directly with the New Jersey Department of Personnel on or before January 29, 1999. Clark is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

SUPERINTENDENT

We have an opening for a live-in superintendent for our new HUD facility (Covenant Manor) in Plainfield, NJ. The successful building candidate will be responsible for custodial tasks, maintaining the building environment in a sanitary and orderly condition, conducting a preventative maintenance program, etc. She/he will have at least two years' experience in building maintenance, ability to work independently, problem solve, etc.

Please send resume and salary requirements to: Director of Human Resources, UMHNJ, 3311 Highway 34, Neptune, NJ 07753. EOE

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Englewood	Orange
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Irvington	Piscataway
Jersey City	Plainfield
Linden	Red Bank
Long Branch	Roselle
Metro Newark	Somerset

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